

Keystone Courage Youth Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2006

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PA National Guard Hires New Youth Coordinator

The Pennsylvania National Guard Family Program has hired Ms. Janet R. Marquis to join our team as the new State Youth Coordinator. Janet is not new to children's programming as she has logged in 24 years with the Girl Scouts, YWCA and YMCA organizations. Many of our youth will recognize Janet as "Peaches" who has directed the past two Operation Purple—Camp Keystone Courage summer youth camps.

I firmly believe that Pennsylvania's Military Kids will enjoy Janet as she continues to operate the summer youth camps and develop many more programs which will benefit our states National Guard youth.

Janet has a lot on her plate as she will be collaborating with many state agencies, including the schools, to educate our educators of the needs of our military youth.

I'm excited about having a State Youth Coordinator and what Janet is going to do for the morale of our children.

Welcome Janet!

Jennifer Sadler , State Family Program Director



**Janet hard at work during
summer youth camp.**

Keystone Courage

Families that were involved in any of the past two youth summer camps will recognize the name of this newsletter. **Keystone Courage** was chosen as the Pennsylvania catch name for the youth camp that was held at a YMCA camp in Berks County. As we know, "Keystone" is the nickname for the state of Pennsylvania and Courage is the PERFECT adjective to describe the kids who are a part of our all important military families. You will see this name often in the new PA Youth Program!



THE PARENTS PAGE

Dear Parent,

I am very pleased and proud to be chosen as the first ever State Youth Coordinator in Pennsylvania by the National Guard. As you read on page #1 of this newsletter, I have spent my life in organizations that work with children and I'm excited to carry on this tradition for our National Guard kids.

Just last year my brother was deployed to Iraq and spent time in Baghdad while his wife and two children stayed at home in Texas. It was during this time that I became aware of the plight of the children left at home. This awareness coupled with the opportunity to run two Operation Purple summer youth camps has lead me to my new mission as the State Youth Coordinator.

It is my intent to send regular newsletters to the households that have children and want to receive information about youth programs as they are planned and scheduled. In order for this process to work as planned, I am requesting all families with children that want to be active in the PA National Guard Youth Programs to fill out the interest form and return it to me. These persons will be entered into a data base and will receive regular information for the youth in their household. **Please note, only children entered into this database will be included in regular correspondence. Filling out this form is very important!**

Activities for our kids will vary throughout the year. We will continue offering the summer youth camp, and throughout the year there will be other camps offered in different regions of the state. We will have an active collaboration with the PA 4-H as well as other organizations. We will, in addition to these newsletters, have a web site for the youth to check into on a regular basis. There will be clubs, a big brother and big sister program, a pen pal program so kids can connect with other kids going thru similar emotions, a teen leadership program, and many other opportunities for the kids to participate on a state wide and regional basis.

The state of PA is separated into 6 National Guard geographical areas and we will have 1-2 volunteers in each region that will act as Volunteer Regional Youth Coordinators. This process will allow us to serve more kids at the local level.

The teenagers will have a number of activities to assist them in developing their leadership skills and two teens from each region will serve on the State Youth Council. This council, once put into place, will communicate with the other kids in their region and take on a leadership role in planning programs and representing our state youth at state and national conferences. You can think of it as a "kids supporting kids" network.

There is a lot of work ahead, but our kids will reap many rewards from participating in this program and getting involved with other PA National Guard kids. Please note that this is a "joint" venture and both Army and Air Guard kids are welcome to participate.

Now it is your turn to do your part in making this new youth department functional. Go to page #3 and fill out the Participation Form. It is imperative that you include the county which you live so that I can determine which region your children will be participating. While programs are generally for children ages 6-18, please register all children so we can contact the family with child care and any other information that will prove useful to the parents.

I look forward to serving as an advocate for our Guard Kids.

Respectfully,

Janet R. Marquis

State Youth Coordinator
PA Air and Army National Guard
Fort Indiantown Gap
Family Assistance Office/Youth Services
Building 7-14
Annville, PA 17003
Janet.marquis@pa.ngb.army.mil

YOUTH PARTICIPATION FORM

(Fill out for all children in the family)

Name of Parent/Guardian at Home _____ Relationship _____

Name of Soldier Parent _____

_____ Army Guard _____ Air Guard

Deployment Dates if Applicable: _____

Home Address for Children: _____

Street

City

Zip

Home Phone: ()

Home Parent cell phone: ()

Home Parent work phone: ()

Family E-mail: _____

Child #1 Name _____ Age _____ E-mail _____

School Grade _____ Name of School _____

Child #2 Name _____ Age _____ E-mail _____

School Grade _____ Name of School _____

Child #3 Name _____ Age _____ E-mail _____

School Grade _____ Name of School _____

Child #4 Name _____ Age _____ E-mail _____

School Grade _____ Name of School _____

School District Your Children are enrolled _____

County of Residence: _____

Janet R. Marquis, State Youth Director

PA National Guard

Please Return To:

Fort Indiantown Gap, Building 7-14

Family Assistance Office/Youth Services

Annville, PA 17003

*NOTE: Please include on a separate sheet any additional information that will help us in serving your children.

2005 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP PHOTO GALLERY



KIDS ONLY PAGE

Hey Kids—Let's start this new Youth Program with some introductions. I'll start and then I'd like to hear from you. When appropriate I'll share your "stuff" with the other kids in the state through these newsletters!

My name is Janet Marquis. My nickname is "Peaches" and I have been hired to perform a cool job. I have been hired to serve YOU! I'm the State Youth Coordinator. I support You in your schools, communities and many other ways throughout the state of Pennsylvania. I even attend meetings where all State Coordinators in the USA get together to compare programs and problems. I'll tell everybody about our Pennsylvania National Guard Kids.

Besides sending this newsletter every few months to your house and hosting a website for PA National Guard Kids (soon to come), I will be visiting PA school officials to make sure they know you are there and that you may need some help while mom or dad are away. I'll offer fun programs in your area of the state and I'll offer many opportunities throughout the year for you to do stuff with other guard kids. You should read your future newsletters and check the website regularly to see what is coming up next and how other guard kids are dealing with stuff.

I have two wonderful golden retrievers and I'm sure they will make appearances in most newsletters and occasionally at state programs. They are COOL DOGS!! Check them out:



Cheyenne



Lakota

Now it's your turn. Write me and let me know who you are. Please be sure you and your parent/guardian return the Participation Form included in this newsletter! Consider it your "ticket" to a lot of COOL stuff!!

I'd like to receive photos of you and your family and hey, any great stories you want other Pa Guard Kids to hear. Good vacation photos? Send them in! I'll include some of them in every newsletter.

Let's make this a fun club. The only rule is that you have to be a PA National Guard Kid to belong. Now, that is an exclusive club! MEMBERS ONLY so to speak! Fun and support will be our mission as we develop and grow... who knows what we can do. So get to it and get the form sent in so we can begin our journey together.

COOL STUFF COMING YOUR WAY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Big Brother & Big Sister Program *Pen Pal program with other state military kids *Teen leadership programs *Opportunity for teens to participate on the State Youth Council *Weekend camping *Summer camps *Clubs and Adventure Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Interstate buddy support programs *4H Programs *YMCA Programs *Exclusive website just for you! *More support from your schools *Much, Much, More to come..... |
|---|---|

Send all stories, photos and letters to janet.marquis@pa.ngb.army.mil



The Youth Rendezvous is an event for students who will be high school juniors or seniors during the 2006-2007 school year. It is centered around the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Discovery and the exploration of the west. The Youth Rendezvous will take place August 13-18, 2006, along the Lewis and Clark Trail in North Dakota. It will educate students about the Lewis and Clark journey as a military expedition by exploring the leadership and values of the military of the past and the military of today.

Ten students from each state and territory will be selected to participate in the Youth Rendezvous based upon a Lewis and Clark essay competition. The event, including transportation, will be free of charge for those students with the winning essays along with two chaperones from each state and territory.

The 2006 Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous will include one day, August 13, for student arrival in North Dakota. Three days of activities, August 14-16, will take place at several locations in western North Dakota. Groups will visit the sites on a round-robin basis. One day, August 17, will be devoted to the opening of the Lewis and Clark Signature event in New Town, and finally students and their escorts will travel home on August 18.

Through multiple activities and events, selected students will follow the Lewis and Clark trail, experience American Indian culture of yesterday and discover military history first hand. During their stay, the students will visit Fort Abraham Lincoln with activities intended to provide information about the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the area of the nearby On-A-Slant Indian Village, the history of that village and the unique history of the cavalry. Lewis and Clark and Sakakawea re-enactors will provide students a glimpse of the expedition era which happened about 60 years prior to Dakota Territory forming. Included will be tours of the barracks, stables, earth lodges and Missouri River. Students will come face to face with 1870s soldiers and will learn about Army life now and then. Indian gardening, tool making and clothing production will also be highlighted.

Washburn, Knife River Indian Villages and Cross Ranch State Park will give the students a cultural and historic aspect of the expedition and provide specific insight into American Indian culture. Activities include expedition history at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in the community of Washburn, tours of Fort Mandan and the surrounding trails, a powwow, native plant and animal interpretations at Cross Ranch as well as what everyday life was like in the Knife River Indian Villages. All attendees will arrive at varied times at Fort Mandan via the Missouri River.

Finally, the youth will all rendezvous at the opening of the 2006 Lewis and Clark Signature Event. Time will be set aside for hands on participation in cultural activities. Interpreters and facilitators will be coordinated by the National Guard to ensure the students are able to participate in the activities. The scheduled events will provide a unique educational opportunity for everyone involved.



Caption describing picture or

1. Student Winners

The top ten selected students from each state and territory will be awarded a free trip to North Dakota during the 2006 Lewis and Clark Signature Event. The trip will include opportunities to learn about American Indian culture and military heritage while touring the state and participating in fun and adventurous activities. Meals, transportation and housing will be provided by the National Guard free of charge.

2. Eligibility

This essay contest is open to all students who are U.S. citizens or legal aliens. Qualifying contestants need to be high school juniors or seniors in August 2006. The contest is entered at and selected at the state level. Only one entry per student is allowed. If essay is submitted online, and it is not accepted the first time, check word count, make changes and re-submit essay.

3. Essay requirements

The essay will be evaluated on original thought about the Lewis and Clark expedition. The essay must be written in English. References may be used, but must be cited in a separate bibliography page. The essay can be submitted online or an application can be requested. The essay should include these four parts: title page, essay, bibliography (if applicable) and a filled out entry form. Information on the title page should include the title of the essay, the contestant's name, address and telephone number.

The essay needs to address the following question. It must be a minimum of 1,000 words, but not more than 1,500 words.

"In your opinion, what military value (stated below) most describes the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery journey and why?"

- **Loyalty:** Bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers.
- **Duty:** Fulfill your obligations.
- **Respect:** Treat people as they should be treated.
- **Selfless-Service:** Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.
- **Honor:** Live up to all the Army values.
- **Integrity:** Do what's right, legally and morally.
- **Personal Courage:** Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical or moral).

4. Judging criteria

Students must be high school juniors or seniors during the 2006-2007 school year. Student entries will be judged by the following criteria:

1. Clarity of expression.
2. Original thought and perspective.
3. Historical accuracy.
4. Clear thesis and organized supporting paragraphs.
5. Proper use of grammar, spelling and sentence structure.
6. If sources are referenced, use appropriate annotation.

5. Essay submission

<http://www.lcyouthrendezvous.com/essay/>

Entries will be accepted from November 12, 2005, until midnight February 28, 2006



Pennsylvania National Guard
Fort Indiantown Gap, Building 7-14
Family Assistance Office/Youth Services
Annville, PA 17003

TO:

Phone: 717-861-2650

Fax: 717-861-2389

E-mail: Janet.Marquis@pa.ngb.army.mil

Janet R. Marquis
PA State Youth Coordinator

Pittsburgh Steeler Games attended by local Guard youth!

